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# *Convention Issue*

# The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Phones: 25481 - 25965

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### NEW YEAR MESSAGE

We wish our membership and farmers generally the very best for 1956. During 1955 we have made good progress in building an effective Union. However more activity at the membership level is essential for the best results.

Let us all resolve to do our part in the year ahead.

## President's Report

Since our last issue big things have happened in the F.U.A.

First of all, the move to the new Headquarters was completed on November 15th. As the building was not by any means fully finished conditions were pretty rough for a week or two with workmen swarming all over the basement, and a good deal of disturbance going on. However, except for the grounds, which cannot be finished till spring, everything is pretty well completed now.

Since the move was made, hundreds of F.U.A. members have visited the new set-up. Without exception they have expressed pleasure and satisfaction over the F.U.A.'s new home. Visiting members now feel a new pride of ownership which they never had before. I hope that every member who comes to Edmonton will be sure and visit F.U.A. House at 9934-106 St. They are always welcome.

The big event of the month has been of course, the Annual Convention. This year's Convention was as we expected the largest in the history of the F.U.A. It was also one of the liveliest. As I expected, the Agricultural crisis gave a sense of urgency to the proceedings of the Convention and the delegates responded to it by the keenness of their interest. Participation in the debates was, I thought, much wider than in recent years. All of which is to the good.

The main result of the Convention was the adoption of an emergency program. To carry this out will be the main job of our Board and Executive in the near future. A petition embodying the chief points will be circulated and later presented to the Federal Government. This petition should be signed not only by farmers but by all residents of towns and villages in Alberta. They are all to a large degree dependent upon the welfare of Agriculture. To arouse interest in these matters a series of mass meetings will be held throughout Alberta, commencing about January 1st.

Returns from the F.U.A. Jubilee Day Drive have so far been disappointingly slow in coming in. However, they are coming in and in time will add up to a good total. The rough weather in November has of course been a main factor in slowing up the drive. However, it is fairly evident that a lot of the new members who joined for the first time in 1954 expected spectacular results and are disappointed because they they did not get them.

Personally I feel that the Union got good results in 1955. Anyone who expects as a result of him paying a \$3.50 membership that the Provincial Government is going to turn over the Province to the Union is sure to be dis-

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appointed. Real progress is slow. In the job we are trying to do through the Union perseverance is what counts. Union work is like farming, results do not come all at once. The man who expects immediate success is usually disappointed.

So far, only a minority of the farmers of Alberta have caught a vision of what could be accomplished through the Union. True, we have a majority in the Union, but more than membership is needed. Far too many of the members of 1955 are loafing on the job. We should take our Union work as seriously as we do our farming. When all members do that, there will be no question of the results. It will make farmers more powerful even than Labor. The future of Agriculture is in our hands.

Conditions on the farm are the worst since 1932. All other sections of the Canadian Economy are prosperous. Profits are increasing everywhere except on the farm. It is quite within the power of the Federal Government to correct this situation. The first job is to arouse the farmers of the West to get together and present a united front in support of their emergency program. Unless farmers are prepared to stand up for themselves, no Government is going to worry about them. Organization is the key to results. Let us show by our actions that we mean business.

As we now have a new President, this will be my last report to you in that capacity. However, I shall still be available to help the new President and the Union in every possible way. My five years as your President has been a great experience. I have enjoyed almost every minute of it. I want to ask all members to give 100% support to our new President and the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

## Message From New President

I am deeply conscious of the honor your recent convention has conferred upon me in making me the new President of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. I am following a line of very distinguished men. They have made very great contributions to the economic welfare of agriculture and the political thought of our country. The burden of responsibility hangs heavy upon one that would follow in their footsteps. In the year ahead I will endeavour to measure up to these responsibilities. In going forward in this task I am relying on the knowledge and experience of my Executive and Board of Directors. I am particularly happy to have the help and council of your retiring President, Mr. Henry Young.

At the recent convention your delegates approved an emergency program to aid agriculture. At the same time an action program was formulated. These programs are printed in this issue and they deserve your careful study.

If our action program is to be a success, we must have the full support of every individual member of our Union. We must sell the people of Canada on the idea that an emergency exists and that our program is fair and practical.

Your directors are organizing meetings to get support from all interested groups. Help support these meetings not only by attending yourself but also by bringing farmers who are not yet members and your local business people. We need the support of everyone.

Petitions are being prepared and if they are to be effective, they must be widely circulated. Do not wait until asked to help in this work—volunteer your services.

You will also note that our Action Program will attempt to inform the general public and particularly the urban people of the crisis in Agriculture. I will be devoting considerable time to this myself, but obviously I can do only a small part of the work that needs to be done. Here again everyone must help. Not everyone will have the opportunity to address meetings, but everyone has the opportunity from time to time to chat with friends and acquaintances in the city and to give them the facts on the farming emergency.

If all of us, officials and members alike, do our part we can go forward with confidence into this new year in the expectation that 1956 will be the turning point toward better times for farmers.

### F.W.U.A. DISTRICT 5 CONFERENCE

The annual conference of District 5 FWUA was held in the city annex building on November 17th. Mrs. Jack Fuhr was elected chairman and Mrs. Mary-Lou Gibeau, secretary. The minutes of the last conference were read and the secretaries of the locals represented gave a brief summary of their past year's activities.

Resolutions on Mental Health, Home Economics and scholarships were discussed and passed. Mrs. Jack Harrold gave a report on her activities. She emphasized the fact that it took a long time to work for something important, but the results are eventually obtained. Mrs. Olive Douglass, vice-president of the FWUA was introduced and gave an outline of the program for the annual convention.

Mrs. Melnyk, Home Economist gave a very interesting and informative talk on the usage of an electric range to its utmost efficiency.

Miss Betty Tomlinson, radio commentator and press agent showed very interesting slides taken in the various countries on her recent trip to Europe.

After the meeting adjourned the ladies went over to the new FUA office, where a delicious lunch was served by the Morinville Local ladies.

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# F.U.A. Convention Highlights



ARNOLD PLATT

President



MRS. C. T. ARMSTRONG

President F.W.U.A.



HENRY YOUNG

Vice-President

The seventh annual convention of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, held in Alberta College auditorium December 5-9, set a new record in size — 799 delegates including officials — plus a large number of visitors. Most notable observation that could be made about the convention is the active participation provoked from the floor as delegates from all sections of the province debated matters of provincial legislation in many fields, matters of internal policy and federal agricultural provisions.

### Extension Vetoed —

At the outset, the convention turned down a constitutional amendment which would have extended the five-year limit of presidential office. The action was not construed as lack of confidence in outgoing president Henry Young, it was made clear. Rather, it was maintenance of a principle written into the constitution as a safeguard in preventing union stagnation at the leadership level and delegates were reluctant to depart from it.

In later balloting, Arnold W. Platt, prominent Lethbridge farmer and former cerealist with dominion experimental stations at Swift Current and Lethbridge, was chosen to guide the farm union's destiny in 1956. Unsuccessful candidates were Frank Maricle of Hamlin, Carl Stimpfle of Egremont and Uri Powell of Sexsmith. Ex-president Henry Young of Millet was the popular choice in elections for vice-president,

defeating three other nominees. Elected to the executive from a slate of 14 candidates were Mr. Stimpfle, A. B. Wood and Mrs. W. C. Taylor.

### New Policy Drafted —

Whereas previous conventions had focussed attention largely on provincial matters and reaffirming established federal policy, this year's convention delved deeper into the intricate problems facing farmers. As a result, an entirely new emergency policy was hammered out and several new points were added to the long-range program.

The question of amending the constitution to allow optional affiliation with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture came in for serious debate and when all sides had been presented, delegates failed to give the majority vote necessary for such change. Another amendment which would have provided for election of three executive members from and by the board of directors was also turned down.

### Determined Stand —

Taking a determined view on the farm crisis, the gathering named a committee of 10 to draft recommendations for early implementation of the emergency policy laid down previously in the convention. Paramount on the committee's action draft was recommendation that meetings be organized throughout F.U.A. districts

in order to gain support from all interested groups for the emergency program.

A petition for signature of all citizens is to be circulated, a more aggressive job of public relations was advocated and an intensified drive for membership is to be conducted along with these activities. The proposals were adopted without question.

**A report delivered to the convention by W. G. Logan, co-ordinator of organization, disclosed the Jubilee Day membership drive had netted over 22,000 members — some 14,000 farm units — according to tabulations up to Friday noon, December 9. (Returns continued to come in steadily to central office and the figure as at December 15 was 25,974 members, 408 locals reporting).**

#### **Broader Legislation Sought —**

Lively debate centered around provincial marketing legislation recently enacted, which denies cattle and sheep producers the right to form marketing boards. One delegate pointed out that these two groups were excluded at their own request, while others expressed objection to pressing for further legislation until a board were actually established in the province so that producers could have a chance of studying its effect.

Opposition speakers contended that not all producers were in accord with the exclusion and therefore should not be denied enabling legislation. The convention was not judging the merits or demerits of such schemes, they maintained, but merely the right to formation of cattle and sheep marketing boards should they be desired at any time. The convention subsequently voted overwhelmingly in favor of making representation to the provincial government toward securing the wanted legislation. (At a board of directors' meeting following the convention, it was decided to first submit the matter to the A.F.A. annual convention in an attempt to get support of that group also.

#### **National Union Idea Tabled —**

The dying hours of the convention were livened up by discussion on the idea of pushing for a national farmers' union. Supporters of the resolution felt the time was ripe for uniting farm unions on a country-wide basis, proceeding from the Interprovincial Farm Union Council which has now been in operation for several years. (The three prairie provinces, British Columbia and Ontario have organized farm unions). The argument against such a move was that the F.U.A. should continue to work through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture . . . long the strongest spokesman on farm opinion. To strengthen their case, objectors pointed out

that substantial financing would have to be borne when entering the national field, a load hardly any of the farm unions would contemplate to carry. After debate of more than an hour, the resolution was finally tabled.

However, the convention instructed the board of directors to make available enough money to enable the I.F.U.C. to fulfill its functions properly, keeping in mind the financial position of the union.

#### **Other Resolutions —**

In other resolutions, delegates voted down a motion to set date of the annual convention ahead to January; requested that hunting regulations be amended to give farmers the right to restrict or prohibit others from hunting on their own lands; the country's butter surplus be reduced by having margarine replaced by butter on the menu of our military forces; farm trucks be licensed according to tonnage rating; government floor prices on hogs be equalized at all Canadian markets; financial aid be made available to young farmers, loans at low interest rates; a modified system of P.F.A.A. payments be investigated with a view to developing it into a crop insurance plan. Numerous other resolutions also came before the convention, but space does not permit to list them all.

#### **Prominent Speakers —**

Addresses were heard from prominent federal and provincial government officials, farm union leaders from other provinces, civic officials and heads of provincial farm organizations. These included George McIvor, Wheat Board chairman; Hon. C. D. Howe, federal trade minister; Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Alberta minister of agriculture; Hon. Gordon Taylor, provincial highways minister; Jake Schultz, interprovincial union chairman; E. A. Chisholm, Western Stock Growers' Association; C. Cook, Montana Farm Union; Leo Davies, B. C. Farmers' Union; Chris Hansen, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union; J. E. Brownlee, U.G.G. president; Roy Marler, A.F.A. president; C. P. Hayes, Rural Municipal Districts' Association. Greetings from the City of Edmonton were extended by Alderman Cliff Roy. (Mayor Hawrelak was unable to attend because of illness)

Speakers had consented to stay on the platform for question periods and in some cases delegates bombarded them with queries up to an hour.

The overall atmosphere of the convention was one of keenness, determination, and orderliness. As a social attraction, the evening sing song periods and Tuesday's convention dance drew large crowds and were declared an unqualified success.

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONVENTION

By H. Y.

The 1955 Convention was one of the best in history. Attendance was good. Interest was keen. The delegates showed that they realized the heavy responsibility which rested upon them and they acted accordingly. This year there was very little of that indecisive attitude which characterized the Convention of 1954. Very few Resolutions were tabled, and most of them were dealt with by decisive majorities.

Constitutional Amendments were not in favor, the general feeling being that the crisis facing Agriculture was the main business and should be faced at once. However, the perennial amendment to remove the clause which ties the F.U.A. to the A.F.A. received a two-thirds majority but not the 75 percent necessary to carry. This is the second time that has happened. It is not a healthy situation where two-thirds of the delegates have their decision frustrated through the technicalities of law.

It was evident at this Convention that the A.F.A. had lost much of its prestige with the delegates. On the other hand strong support for the Interprovincial Council of the Farm Unions was voiced. However, the Convention balked at outright support for the principle of a National Farmers' Union at this time. Probably there would be much more support for such a move if the question of how to finance a National Union could be cleared up. In a country the size of Canada financing such a Union would be difficult without the support of the Co-ops. At present the Co-ops are financing the C.F.A. and appear quite satisfied with it. Naturally they dominate the C.F.A., which in turn does not suit the Farm Union membership. Even after listening to the Hon. Mr. Howe, the first evening the delegates were not convinced that the Federal Government is on the ball. This was shown in the emergency program which they adopted, and the plans made for putting it into effect. These were the main decisions of the Convention. Their success will depend upon the vigor with which they are followed up, and the support given by the man on the land.

One interesting feature which has been lacking in recent Conventions was the election of a new President. In Arnold Platt I believe we have a man who is well qualified to lead the F.U.A. He should do well. His election shows beyond dispute that the F.U.A. is not a sectional movement. He is from the far South, but delegates from all over combined to elect him. He comes into office at a time when the Union is working smoothly. He will have the full support of all of us. More power to him.

One notable feature of the Convention was

the wide participation in the discussion. This year there seemed to be a larger number of delegates than usual taking part. This is a very good sign. Summing up, I would say that the Convention showed strength and maturity, and the ability to do its own thinking. Even after having seen many annual conventions come and go, I would rate this as one of the best.

## JUNIORS AT THE CONVENTION

A number of Junior F.U.A. directors and members from various parts of the province attended the senior convention, where they did yeoman service handling the portable floor microphones.

The middle day of the F.W.U.A. convention, Wednesday, these young people took complete charge of the afternoon program. Under the direction of Hartley McDonald they conducted community singing, presented descriptive accounts of some of their year's outstanding activities and entertained with a highly original skit. Addresses were given by Junior President Walter Scheid and Elizabeth Lowe, vice-president. Following discussion of resolutions, the group remained for a joint session with women's union.

At a board meeting held in the convention auditorium Thursday afternoon, decisions were reached regarding several phases of activity. Because of certain obstacles encountered in the past, it was agreed to discontinue sponsorship of a candidate in the 1956 Calgary Stampede Queen contest.

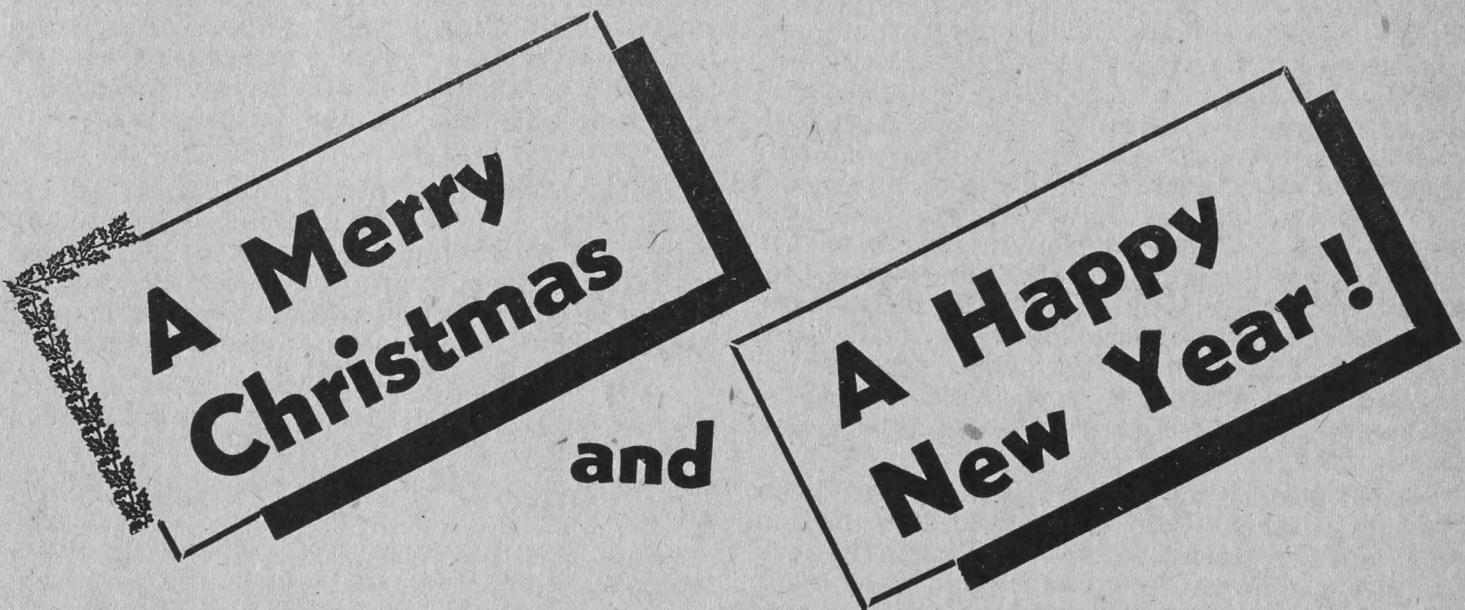
Alternative fund-raising projects were examined and a three-man committee was set up to initiate a provincial program of gate signs for farms. Charged with this task were Aubrey Marler, George Doupe and Eddie Brown, with Richard Thull to act in an advisory capacity.

Also discussed was publication of a Book on Farm Tips, patterned after Saskatchewan university's Guide to Farm Practices. The executive is to investigate the matter and decide on procedure.

Four young people from outside the province, two each from the Ontario and Saskatchewan farm unions, are again to be invited to Farm Young People's Week, held each summer at the University of Alberta. Placed in charge of organizing a tour and providing entertainment were two committees, composed of Hannah Anderson, Paul Calon, Hartley McDonald, Elizabeth Lowe, Aubrey Marler and Walter Deitz.



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## F.W.U.A. EXECUTIVE:

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3. Clare Anderson, Freedom	
4. Fritz Wuth, Rat Lake	
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## EDITORIALS

## THE NEW LOAN SYSTEM

Evidence is accumulating at Head Office that the new system of advances against stored grain is not working out too well.

In the first place, many farmers resent having to pay 5% interest for an advance on their own goods. This feeling is preventing many from taking advantage of the advances even though they urgently need the money to meet current obligations. This is a matter of principle with some farmers, and they just will not go to the banker for money under these conditions. Curiously enough even one bank manager expressed the opinion to us that the farmer should get an advance interest free.

Another feature even worse, is the fact that these advances are at the whim of the local bank manager. We believe that if a farmer has the grain to justify a loan he should be able to get it regardless of whether someone likes him or not. However, such is not the case. Under

this plan the farmer has no right to get money no matter how much grain he has. The local banker has the final say as to whether he gets money or not. This puts far too much power in the hands of the bank manager.

Already we have cases being brought to our attention where farmers with lots of grain cannot get money because of some old record of long ago, between them and the bank.

This is no good. In this emergency a farmer should get the money according to his present condition. Old scores should not be allowed to enter the picture. If the advances had been made through the elevator system as most farmers wanted, there would have been none of this delay and favoritism which is now showing up.

Perhaps we should not blame the banker too much. He is not used to acting as an agent for the Government and can't be expected to do a good job.

This system of advances will be a relative failure. Something better must be worked out for 1956. In this the Farm Unions must spearhead the way as the division of opinion among the various Co-ops on this question will probably prevent any clear leadership coming from other agricultural organizations.

# Alberta Federation of Agriculture

At the recent Annual Convention of the Farmer's Union of Alberta there seemed to be a keen interest in obtaining information in respect to:

- (1) Why the Alberta Federation of Agriculture had not attended the Interprovincial Farm Union Council's Conference in Saskatoon on September 27 and 28.
- (2) What statement Mr. Marler had made at Ottawa on October 11 when the Western delegation met the Federal Government, appealing for advances on farm stored grain.

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture was programmed to bring greetings from its member groups to the F.U.A. Convention on the evening of December 8. Previous to this time one of the F.U.A. directors asked Mr. Marler if he would deal with these questions, as a number of the delegates had shown an interest in them. In appearing before the Convention Mr. Marler read the statement that he had made at Ottawa, word for word as nearly as it was possible to do, and did explain his reasons. However, as the delegates indicated that they would like to ask some questions and the Chairman ruled that questions would not be permitted at that time, Mr. Marler asked the Chairman to advise the delegates that he would be with them through the next day's Convention.

The following day the Convention endorsed a motion from the floor, asking Mr. Marler to come to the platform to answer questions in respect to these matters. At the end of the question period Mr. Marler was asked by a delegate if he would put in the press the explanations that he had given the Convention. Mr. Marler replied that he would be happy to give information on anything that the Federation had done or anything that it had said and, while it would be impossible for him to get this information into the daily press, he would undertake to see that the next issue of "The Organized Farmer" contained the information desired. A motion of thanks to Mr. Marler was moved by the Convention at the end of the question period.

## Saskatoon Conference

In explaining the position of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture in respect to the Saskatoon Conference it is perhaps only necessary to deal with two aspects; first, that the

Federation felt the calling of such a Conference at or near the beginning of the marketing year, and giving public press prominence of agricultural organizations' concern over marketing our grain, could serve no good purpose but could serve only to weaken our bargaining power because, at this time, people and important officials outside of agriculture were advocating strongly that Canada's wheat should be sold, inferring that to lower the price would accomplish this end. These people, in the opinion of the Federation, ignore entirely the fact that the surplus of grain today is a world problem, and has been the key problem of the recent Conference of the International Federation of Agriculture Producers held in Rome and the recent Conference of F.A.O., the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Also, according to the press, it was the cause of considerable concern at the recent International Wheat Conference held in Geneva. These same people also ignore the fact that there is more grain in the world than what there is a market for at present and, if a reduced price is made, that price immediately sets the price of the overall market and, if giveaway programs would be adopted, then who would want to buy wheat? The Federation also felt that nothing could be accomplished without discussing the matter directly with the Federal Government, and believed that this should be done with a minimum of publicity.

Secondly, the Federation was concerned for the farmer's position, as for 40 years or more the farmer himself had been trying to get in the policy making saddle in respect to selling his products and finally obtained a selling agency in the Canadian Wheat Board, directed to sell grain in his best interests, and only this summer has seen the re-organization of the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board, to include producer representatives only of these three Prairie Provinces. When the Federation received this invitation indicating that the Councils of towns and cities, the Line Elevator Companies, Chambers of Commerce, Labor, Retail Merchants Associations, Retail Implement Dealers Associations, Trustees Associations, and such organizations were invited; we could not help but think that this was a tremendous backward step, after working all these years on behalf of the grass roots farmer for him to have more say in the market-

ing policies, and then to revert and call back in at policy level these above organizations whose primary or first concern and responsibility is not that of the farmer on the land. While the Federation considers these organizations all to be providing a very useful service, it is strongly against their participation with farm organizations at the policy level with respect to marketing farm products.

The decision not to be represented at the Saskatoon Conference was supported by the majority of the Board of the Federation.

#### The Ottawa Statement of Mr. Marler

Mr. Prime Minister:

"We here are all agreed that it is necessary to make some provision whereby Western farmers can obtain some money on their grain which they cannot market at this time. Unfortunately we are not in a position, in coming before you today, to present evidence as to the extent of this need or the number of farmers who would wish to take advantage of any measures that you may establish.

"While I agree with those here that some are in need of this assistance, I do believe that the question has been greatly overworked. Farmers of Alberta are in a better overall position than we have ever been in any period before, but there are a number who are short of cash. This pertains more particularly to those who have lost their crops in 1954 through hail, rust, flooding, or frost, and who were not able to market their 1954 quota.

"I am sorry to have to disagree with my good friend, Mr. Nollet, on the question of interest. I do think it would create a great deal of dissatisfaction among farmers if interest charges were employed indirectly and farmers who do not obtain money on their stored grain were required to pay part of the interest on the money obtained by others.

"With respect to the question of when a marketing conference should be called, I do not see any possibility of having a conference before the first of February if those organizations represented here today are to be in attendance. I say this because the annual meetings of many of our member organizations are held during the next two months, and matters which they wish our Government to consider are referred to the Annual Meeting of The Canadian Federation of Agriculture which is being held in the latter part of January.

"I would like to say that the Federation

have been very appreciative of the recognition that has been given us in inviting us to attend the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference which is held each year in the first week of December. Also, we have appreciated the opportunity that has been afforded us each year, to bring before the Cabinet the many and varied problems of our farm people across Canada as they have been discussed and finalized at our Annual Meeting of the C.F.A., which includes representatives from producer agricultural organizations in the nine provinces of Canada.

"I would like also to say that it has been my privilege to attend these meetings now for the last ten years and I have never felt — nor do I think our organization has ever felt — that our hands have been tied in bringing to your attention or discussing with you, any matters pertaining to agriculture, either in the field of production or of marketing."

#### Explanation of Mr. Marler's Stand

The first thing to note in this matter is that the meeting in Ottawa was arranged in Ottawa during the Dominion-Provincial Conference of the Prime Minister and the Premiers. It was decided there that representatives of the Government would meet those of the Prairie Governments and the farm organizations (and possibly others who are interested in this matter) on October 11. From there the Ministers of Agriculture of the three Prairie Provinces undertook the responsibility of arranging for a delegation, and the organizations to be represented. This was done on very short notice, and was done with the understanding that this delegation was not only being arranged by the three Ministers, but that they would lead the delegation when appearing before the Government. It was also arranged by the Ministers for a meeting of the representatives in Ottawa on October 10, for the purpose of reaching agreement on procedure and presentations to be made to the Government on the following day.

The delegation consisted of 18 or 19 men representing the three Prairie Governments, the three Prairie Wheat Pools, United Grain Growers, the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, and the Federations of Agriculture of the three Prairie Provinces.

Agreement was reached on the first day that a Brief be prepared for presentation to the Government. It was agreed by majority

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that they would discuss only the question of having some means established by the Federal Government whereby farmers could obtain money advanced on the security of farm stored grains, and that the delegation recommend the calling, in the near future, of a Dominion-Provincial Conference on the marketing of agricultural products. It was agreed that the Brief should ask for interest at the very minimum rate, if interest be charged at all. It was agreed that the Hon. Mr. Halmrast would chair the meeting on October 10, and it was further agreed that he would lead the delegation the next day when appearing before the Government, and also read the Brief. He would then call on Mr. Wesson to lead the discussion. After Mr. Wesson others followed, with Mr. Marler speaking last. No one in the delegation objected to anything Mr. Marler said during the discussion, or offered any criticism while in the meeting.

It will be noted in Mr. Marler's statement that in the first line he said: "We here are all agreed that it is necessary to make some provision whereby Western farmers can obtain some money on their grain which they cannot market at this time". This indicates that Mr. Marler supported, along with all the other members of the delegation, this request. It will also be noted that in the first paragraph Mr. Marler said the delegation was not in a position to present evidence as to the extent of this need or the number of farmers who would wish to take advantage of any measures that the Government may establish.

In the second paragraph Mr. Marler said, while he agreed with those in the delegation that some farmers were in need of this assistance, he felt that the problem had been over-worked. The basis on which Mr. Marler made this statement was that, in his opinion, this matter had been seized by individuals, organizations, and political parties, as one which offered potential material to use in their own strategy for individual or organizational gain. To cite only two instances that Mr. Marler had in mind, mention can be made of the statement of the Premier of British Columbia that this grain should be sold, and a somewhat similar statement made by the Chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Also in the second paragraph is a statement which seems to have been misinterpreted and caused some concern: "Farmers of Alberta are in a better overall position than we have ever been in any period before, but there are a num-

ber who are short of cash". It should be noted here that the whole discussion was on the basis of farmers obtaining money, using their grain as security. It was on the basis of a loan or an advance chargeable to them, and not on the basis of a grant or a gift. Mr. Marler reasons that if two of his neighbors came to him to borrow money — one having his granaries full of grain, a good line of farm machinery, good buildings, and a good farm; the other having a poorly worked farm, deteriorated buildings, poor machinery, and no grain in the granaries — who would he lend the money to; naturally, the man with the good assets. The case that Mr. Marler tried to establish was that these farmers' net worth position was strong but that, in some cases, the purchasing power or cash was almost if not nil. He reasons that if these same two farmers should come to him — assuming theoretically of course that he would have money — asking for a grant or a gift of money, then which man would he donate money to; naturally, the neighbor who would need it, the man who would not have the assets of the first farmer to enable him to carry on himself. The importance of this matter was that the delegation was not asking for a donation but was asking for advances to be made in some form, offering farm stored grain as security.

In the third paragraph of the statement Mr. Marler disagrees, in part, with Mr. Nollet on one point on the question of interest. In the discussion Mr. Nollet had suggested that at least no direct interest be charged on these advances but that, if it were necessary to charge interest, the interest be absorbed by the Wheat Board and taken out of general funds of the Wheat Board. Mr. Marler objected to this, because he felt that the farmers who did not obtain advances would not be satisfied to pay part of the interest on the money that others did obtain.

We in the Alberta Federation of Agriculture wish all farmers to feel free to request of us any information that they desire, or to question us as to what we have or have not said or done on their behalf. We deem it a pleasure, and our responsibility, to each member group to provide this information. We are only too pleased to supply all information possible, if you will only write us at 507 McLeod Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

(An advertisement)

**FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA  
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1955**

**REVENUE****MEMBERSHIPS—**

Family	\$ 59,452.50
Men	71,748.80
Women	2,237.90
Junior	300.00
Associated Memberships	55.00
	<b>\$133,794.20</b>

Receipts for Account of Districts	\$ 38,416.00
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**GRANTS AND DONATIONS—**

Alberta Wheat Pool	\$ 1,000.00
United Grain Growers	2,500.00
Municipalities	1,175.00
Collections at Meetings	879.42
	<b>\$ 5,554.42</b>

**"ORGANIZED FARMER"—**

Subscriptions	\$ 10,953.12
Advertising	2,899.20
	<b>\$ 13,852.32</b>

**SUNDRY RECEIPTS—**

Cook Book Sales	\$ 4,680.15
From Sale of Buttons, Maps, Books, etc.	2,148.83
Residence Rentals	950.00
Interest on Savings Account	152.08
Interest on Investments	1,892.60
	<b>\$ 9,823.66</b>
	<b>\$196,440.60</b>
Total Revenue Forward	<b>\$196,440.60</b>

**EXPENDITURES****ADMINISTRATION—**

President—	
Per Diem Allowance	\$ 4,270.00
Expense Allowance	722.00
Mileage to Meetings	706.40
Executive Meetings	1,129.23
Executive Organization	100.84
Directors' Meetings	3,111.76
District Organization	316.96
F.W.U.A.	1,041.51
Junior Activities	415.05
Committee Work, Affili- ation & Membership	466.20
Attending District Conventions	630.04
	<b>\$12,909.99</b>
Remitted to Districts	38,416.00
Office Expenses	31,953.31
Organized Farmer	11,557.25
	<b>43,510.56</b>

Advertising and Donations	157.20
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	4,873.00
Annual Convention Expense	2,217.80
Delegation Expense	1,197.39
Interprovincial Coun- cil Expense	6,512.13
Interprovincial Con- ference Expense	972.56
Sub-Dist. Conventions	962.79
Radio Broadcasts	4,232.42
Round-up Expense	15,860.77
Canvasser's Commissions	11,648.00
Cost of Cook Books	3,146.66
Share of Net Revenue Transferred to FWUA	
Cook Book Fund	312.93
	3,459.59
Bad Debts Written off	739.90
Building Lot—Taxes	463.70
Loss on Sale of Investments	425.00
Leadership Course	407.30
	<b>\$143,966.10</b>
Surplus on Operations for Year Ended October 31, 1955	<b>\$ 52,474.50</b>

**THE FARM FORUM LEADERSHIP AWARD  
PROGRAM**

National Farm Radio Farm Forum Executive has approved the following rules and arrangements for carrying out the leadership award program recommended by the National Farm Radio Forum Board.

1. The purpose of the Farm Forum Leadership award program is not only to give well-deserved recognition to leaders in the Farm Forum movement but also to help show a wider public the kind of work that is being accomplished in the movement by the award winners and by many others.

2. Awards will be made to 6 persons who have made a significant contribution to the aims and activities of National Farm Radio Forum in their area and province, such contribution to include particularly leadership in the development of Farm Forum programs, and in the organization of Farm Forums.

3. Awards will be made by a Committee to be appointed by the National Executive, from Farm Radio Forum Councils or Committees.

4. Provincial Councils or Committees will accompany their nominations with a full account of the reasons for their nominations, to-

(Continued on Page 15)

# A Happy New Year!

The United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited, the U.F.A. Co-op, takes this opportunity of wishing its members and patrons prosperity, happiness and health in the coming year.

Your Co-operative appreciates the patronage of members of locals of the Farmer's Union of Alberta. Our relations have been on a very cordial basis and we trust will continue throughout the coming year.

We remind all locals that U.F.A. Co-op Farm Supply Department operates through two offices, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary. The addresses are shown at the bottom of this page. Any local which is not at present buying Farm Supplies through U.F.A. Co-op can obtain information about forming a U.F.A. Co-op Local by writing to either of these offices. If it is at all possible arrangements will be made to have a speaker go out to explain the set up.

U.F.A. Co-op Farm Supply Department can offer you real savings on a wide range of farm supplies.

IT PAYS

TO BUY FARM SUPPLIES THROUGH

**U. F. A. Co-op Farm Supply Dept.**

10126 - 98th Street, Edmonton. 125 - 11th Avenue E., Calgary.

(Continued from Page 13)

gether with as much factual information as possible in support of those reasons.

5. The awards will be made by the special Committee after a review of the records of the various nominees, and will go to those six who, in the opinion of the Committee, have made the most impressive contribution.

6. Nominations will be received in the following numbers:

Two from each province regardless of the number of Farm Forums organized, plus one for each full 100 Farm Forums registered during the 1954-55 season.

This is the basis used to arrive at the allocation of nominations. On this basis the following allocation of nominations results:

B.C. - 2; Alberta - 2; Saskatchewan - 2; Manitoba - 2; Ontario - 7; Quebec - 3; N.B. - 2; N.S. - 3; P.E.I. - 2.

7. Nominations must be received by Feb. 1, 1956. Awards will be announced prior to the close of the Farm Forum season.

#### FARM EMERGENCY POLICY AND ACTION PROGRAM

Although delegates to the seventh annual convention discussed a wide variety of agricultural subjects, there were some points where it was felt immediate action should be taken. To that end, a 13-point emergency policy was drafted, aimed at alleviating the crisis facing most of the province's farmers. Little debate and few amendments arose during adoption of this policy, which asked that:

1. Domestic price of wheat used for human consumption be set at not less than \$2.50 per bushel, other grains used for human consumption (in Canada) at comparable prices; such receipts to be pooled and paid on 1,000 bushels to each producer.
2. Floor price at not less than cost of production on all grain sold on the export market.
3. Parity prices on all farm products sold on the domestic market.
4. The government to assume cost of all storage by the Wheat Board.
5. The federal government establish a food bank by buying wheat equivalent to an average year's crop, such wheat to be held in approved storage at the expense of the government.
6. Cash advances on farm-stored grain, after inspection as to quantities, grade and condition of storage facilities.

7. An interim payment of not less than 10 cents per bushel on the 1954-55 wheat crop.
8. No municipal tax penalties be allowed until the farmer has had an opportunity of delivering at least a 4-bushel quota.
9. Protection of the farmer from seizure and eviction during this emergency.
10. Increased trade with all countries through barter, acceptance of foreign currency, on credit and gifts to distressed areas by the Canadian government.
11. Accelerated depreciation for income tax purposes on approved farm storage built in 1952 and subsequent years.
12. Cultivated land taken out of grain and seeded to grass be included in the specified acreage in the permit book.
13. The government floor price for hogs be equalized at all markets throughout Canada.

As a means of implementing this program and gaining public support, the gathering gave wholehearted approval to an action program proposing:

1. Meetings be organized throughout our districts to get support from all interested groups for our emergency program.
2. A petition containing our paramount demands be circulated for signature of all citizens.
3. A committee be set up, representing the several organizations which support our emergency program and the best constitutional advice be obtained from J. E. Brownlee, so that our emergency program may be properly presented to the Canadian Government.
4. The publicity director or executive closely follow press reports and give the facts in rebuttal in instances where the editors of these papers have presented the wrong slant on farm affairs, such rebuttals to be approved by the president.
5. The president or an employed speaker, or both arrange a program of speaking before chambers of commerce, labor groups, service clubs, women's organizations, etc., with a view to gaining support for our emergency farm program and influencing the press in favor of our farm policy. If a speaker is employed, other (farm) organizations be asked to co-operate in the financing.
6. An intensified membership drive be conducted along with these activities.

# Farm Women's Union of Alberta

## FWUA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### CONVENTION

Since our Convention has just concluded I would like to thank all the delegates and visitors for their co-operation in every way. The F.W.U.A. handled all their resolutions and good discussion and information brought forward all helped the delegates in arriving at the right decisions.

Please see that your delegate gets a chance soon to report first-hand to you on these important matters, and to give you some high-lights from the splendid talks given by our guest speakers.

We are sending out an evaluation sheet to each delegate and do hope you will fill this out and return it, so that we can really know your likes and dislikes of the program. In this way we will have some guide in planning the next year's program. It seems a long way to the next Convention just now, but we would like all this information while it is still fresh in your mind. Of course it is understood, that we all must work real hard to bring about the answers to the resolutions that we have just passed in this Convention, and try to get help for our farm people for the immediate problems facing all of us.

### CHOSEN STUDY

The delegates kindly accepted my suggestion that we study our Alberta Indians this year. We hope that many locals will make scrapbooks and enter them in the contest at the next Convention. They will make a nice addition to your rural library after the Convention. Alberta scrapbooks will be judged also, and these will be sent to the A.C.W.W. friends.

### HANDICRAFT

The revised handicraft list will be coming to your local very soon, so be sure to study these new classes, and plan to enter so that your members will have lots of time to prepare their articles. Your Convener will send you information about this a little later.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Our honored friends, the pioneers in the farm organizations, were happy to be remembered in our Jubilee year. This was extra work but it was worth it when it makes others happy, so thanks to all who helped in any way. It was a real pleasure to have so many of our past Presidents, Directors, and long-time members of our women's organization present with us, and the messages of good-will from those who couldn't be present. They are all part

of our fifty years of progress and we are glad that they took part in our Convention.

### YOUR OFFICERS

On behalf of my two vice-presidents and myself, I wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you again this year. With the help and co-operation of all the members I am sure that we will have a good year. We will endeavour to carry out your instructions on the known needs as we see them today, and through the year we shall be glad to have your help and suggestions on matters that concern the farm people.

Season's Greetings To All.

### F.W.U.A. HI-LIGHTS

West Wind FWUA No. 1217 held a lively discussion on the reasons for belonging to FWUA, as some of the members were not joining again this year. Lovely woven table mats were raffled.

\* \* \*

A report on the "Health Unit" is scheduled for the next meeting of Dakota FWUA No. 913. A nominating committee was appointed to contact members to take office for the coming year.

\* \* \*

Inland FWUA No. 615 reports a successful membership drive. They are preparing a scrap book and handicraft for the convention.

\* \* \*

Fairview FWUA No. 201 plans to hold a "Telephone Whist" drive sometime in January. An exchange of Christmas gifts will be made at the annual meeting in December.

\* \* \*

Drumheller East FWUA No. 1111 held a very successful supper in October. They also gave treats to the children at their Hallowe'en party and plan to help out with the treats at the Christmas Concert.

\* \* \*

It is planned by Willow Springs FWUA No. 612 (Bon Accord) to invite the District Home Economist to the next regular meeting of the Local.

\* \* \*

The Heath FWUA Local No. 703 opened their last meeting with the singing of a Christmas Carol. The handicraft display was made ready to be taken to the Annual Convention by the local delegate.

Stony Plain FWUA No. 501 report a very successful year financially.

\* \* \*

At the last meeting of Black Diamond FWUA No. 1214 there were 17 members present. The new year executive was elected and delegate for the Annual Convention chosen. An exchange of Christmas gifts will be held in December.

\* \* \*

It appears that the ladies of Pollockville FWUA No. 1106 also find washing the cream separator an unpleasant chore, with ironing a runner-up. The Hallowe'en Dance and Bazaar held by this local has proved very successful. Donations are being made to a number of worthwhile community projects.

\* \* \*

Hairy Hill FWUA No. 618 will be raffling an end table in the near future. A delegate has been chosen to attend the annual convention and preparations are being made to send exhibits of craft display.

\* \* \*

Clover Bar FWUA No. 602 sponsored a Golden Jubilee celebration on November 25, with the Rev. J. Wing leading in a memorial service. A sing-song, a parade of old costumes, a panel discussion, and the presentation of mementoes to older guests were the highlights. The evening ended with a supper topped by a huge Golden Jubilee Cake.

\* \* \*

The Remembrance Day Dance held by the Delia FWUA No. 1103 proved to be very satisfactory and \$54.90 was cleared. Various projects have been finally arranged for, including a Boxing Day dance. The December meeting will be a Christmas party, each member to add an original verse to her gift offering.

\* \* \*

A whist drive and raffle was held by Freedom-Naples FWUA No. 310, on November 27 to raise funds to send a delegate to the annual convention. A joint FUA-FWUA rally was held on the 18th of November.

\* \* \*

At Three Hills FWUA No. 1018 meeting, on November 8th, a report on "Farm Young People's Week" was given by Billie Peters. A Christmas party is to be held by the local on December 13th at the home of Mrs. Jasman.

\* \* \*

Jenny Lind FWUA No. 1305 (Scandia) held a social evening on November 10th for the benefit of C.N.I.B. Films were shown and C.N.I.B. sent several articles made by the blind, for sale. Lunch and door receipts netted the C.N.I.B. \$30.38. The Local raffled a Siwash, man's sweater which was donated by one of the members. It brought in \$60.75 for the FWUA.

Sedalia FWUA No. 1110 have made arrangements for a sale on December 9 and also for serving lunches on Fridays at Medicine Hat. Contributions of a substantial sum have been made to Korean orphans, through C.A.R.E., and to the Farm Union Building Fund.

\* \* \*

Naco FWUA No. 1115 have spent a very interesting and busy and lucrative year, according to their latest Hi-lights report, and the local hall benefited greatly in the way of renovating and furnishing. The men joined in freely with their help.

\* \* \*

The Dolcy-Browning FWUA No. 702 (Edgerton) are planning to hold a Christmas party for pre-school children, in December. This local has started a square dance club and have had the first lesson which was very well received.

\* \* \*

A turkey supper has been planned by the Spruceville FWUA No. 912 local to be held on November 26th and to be followed by a Bingo. New officers have been elected and committees for various activities.

\* \* \*

It is reported by Gleichen FWUA No. 1010 that the FWUA dance held by them on October 21 was a great success. Mrs. Douglass, 1st vice-president, was guest speaker at the September meeting and was very well received.

\* \* \*

Pine Hill FWUA No. 1013 (Red Deer) held a very busy and interesting meeting in November. It has been decided that gifts will be exchanged in December, also that card parties will be held again. The Markerville 4-H girls gave very interesting demonstrations.

\* \* \*

A Christmas Party is planned for December 16th by the members of Eclipse FWUA No. 904 (Lacombe). This is mainly for the children and a collection will be taken at the close of the evening.

\* \* \*

The members of Gwynne FWUA No. 918 (Bittern Lake) have made plans to join the "Farm Radio Forum" as a listening group, reporting once monthly to the local. Plans also have been made for something special for the December meeting.

\* \* \*

The Roll Call of Swalwell FWUA No. 1017 was answered by "What I dislike most about housework", and washing the cream separator was most disliked. The Local has been asked by the 4-H girls to cater for their Banquet on December 6th and has accepted. Entertainment for the December meeting (one week late) will be an exchange of Christmas gifts.

It has been decided by Imperial FWUA (Vegreville) No. 621 to hold a joint Christmas party on December 17th. A member with perfect attendance is to receive a FWUA teaspoon.

\* \* \*

Fleet FWUA No. 1104 decided to use the tea money for the month of December as a donation to the T.B. Ass'n. Also a sum of money was collected to be sent to A.C.W.W. After adjournment gifts were exchanged with the Sunshine Friends, the opening and examination of which provided a very enjoyable pastime.

\* \* \*

Red Deer FWUA No. 1026 at their last meeting voted to send \$10.00 to the Building Fund.

\* \* \*

Sydenham-Gerald FWUA No. 710 (Wainwright) thanked Mrs. Bottaro for her work on the South African Scrapbook and have decided to put it in the town library after the convention.

#### REPRESENTATIVES AND DELEGATES NAMED

At a board of directors' meeting following the annual convention, representatives were named to the board of directors of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council.

Arnold Platt, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong and Stan Stanford were chosen to represent the F.U.A. on the Federation Board, while those named to the Interprovincial Council were Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. Platt and A. B. Wood.

Delegates chosen to attend the A.F.A. annual convention at Calgary in January were Andy Wood, Herb Marquardt, Mrs. Olive Douglass, Stan Sanford and Mr. Platt. Last year's board representatives, also entitled to attend this year, are Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Milderd G. Redman and C. J. Stimpfle.

#### JUNIOR NEWS

Eleven members attended the November meeting of the Utopia Jr. FUA Local at the home of Gayle Hardy.

The main topic of discussion was the convention and one of the members was delegated to attend. A contest occupied the members after the business meeting and lunch was served.

#### HUNTERS ARE GETTING WORSE

By Stan Ross

After all the talk about getting off private property, the current hunting season is bringing out more complaints than ever.

Farmers complain about hunters going on their land and shooting near their homes and refusing to get off.

Technically, such a farmer has a right to run them off and to use force to do so, but if he shot them we'd certainly find the police going after him.

To make matters worse, these farmers complain that when they demand police protection they get none. The police won't keep the trespassers off their farms, and yet if they take the law into their own hands the police would lay charges. It's a fine state of affairs.

In a recent case where a farmer had to carry a gun because one of the hunters refused to get off his land and even threatened him, one hunter was put out without his gun. This man had complained to the police many times, but instead of helping him, a police officer was around demanding that the trespassing hunter's gun be searched for and returned but refused flatly to charge the trespassing hunter for being on the land. That is going a bit too far when the police help the trespassers and refuse to pay any attention to the farmer's complaints.

Farmers put up "no hunting" signs and the hunter shoot the signs down. Livestock is hit, and the lives of the farmers and their families are endangered, yet the authorities won't do a thing. But if one of these hunters complains about being run off farmer's land the police are right out to warn the farmer that he mustn't threaten the farmer. How silly can we get.

For one thing, the Government should explain to the police that a farmer has the right to order anyone off his land and to use force in order to put them off.

But more important than that, it is about time the authorities insisted that the police protect those farmers who object to trespassers shooting on private land.

Finally it is time the Legislature put through legislation prohibiting the shooting on private land without the written permission of the owner, and a few prosecutions would soon clean up the mess.

It isn't the good hunters who are at fault, it is the ignorant hunters who cause the trouble but some better police support would help.

## THE FOOD MARKETING CRISIS

By Cyril Massey

CITY PEOPLE aren't usually concerned with farmers and their problems. Provided food prices are low and quality reasonably high, the interest of urban consumers in rural affairs begins and ends at that point. But when governments begin to view with alarm the plight of the nation's basic industry because of its depressing effect on other segments of the economy, it is high time for city-dwelling wage-earners and others living more directly from farm investment income, to sit up and take notice.

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS in Canada and the United States have long sought to activate public thinking on the subject by repeated representations to Federal, Provincial and State governments. Today, for the first time since farm prices began to bogganing downhill, politicians are taking the situation seriously. In Washington, the major political parties now realize the farm crisis is certain to be a number one issue in the 1956 presidential elections. In Ottawa, the rumblings of alarm heard from the West and rumors of another Federal election shortly suggest a similar issue in the making here.

THE RECENT GRAIN MARKETING CONFERENCE at Saskatoon, sponsored by the Interprovincial Farm Union Council and attended by premiers and agricultural ministers and officials of wheat pools, grain trade firms and farm unions of the prairie provinces, is another straw showing which way the wind is blowing. Then, too, organized labor, also viewing with alarm the growing army of jobless in implement manufacturing and allied industries including transportation and service trades, has added its voice to the growing demand for action to salvage the drifting ship of agriculture before it becomes too late to avoid a head-on economic crash on the rocks of depression. Evidence of the danger is seen in the fact that farm income in Canada has been cut in half since 1952 while across the line the "parity" ratio has slumped to the lowest point since the outbreak of World War No. 2.

AGAIN THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of Agricultural Producers at their meeting in Rome, Italy last September, devoted days of study to find ways and means of overcoming the dilemma of unsold surpluses in a world over-populated with half-starved people. An official statement issued following the conference declared the basic solution to the general world crisis could be found only in a general lowering of trade barriers (that is to say, tariffs) by every country. But how the conference failed to reveal.

WHAT IS UNIVERSALLY OVERLOOKED in all top level discussions on the subject is the obvious fact that the only SANE way to dispose of food surpluses is to have the people CONSUME them. All the tariff tinkering and economic adjustments among nations, including barter and currency inter-

changeability, will not of themselves resolve the problem. The question is like the Riddle of the Sphinx. Failure to come up with the right answer could mean the beginning of a depression that might well engulf the whole free world. What that would mean is likely a closed book to the younger men and women of today. But to those of mature years, little imagination is required to recall the tragic implications of another chronic recession.

THE MOST PROMISING SUGGESTIONS advanced to date to lay the ghost of over-production (another name for under consumption) have been made by the National Farmers Union of the United States. Farm Union heads have proposed to the government at Washington that all farm food surpluses be distributed by means of a National Food Stamp Plan and made available to low income groups such as war pensioners, the unemployed and those receiving social assistance.

THE STAMP PLAN itself is relatively simple. Each family head or single individual in the specified categories may assign 25 per cent. of his total monthly income to the government agency or board handling the surpluses. In return, he will receive enough food stamps to enable him to obtain an adequate and balanced diet for himself and family for the ensuing one-month period.

ANOTHER MEASURE ADVOCATED by American farm unionists is an expanded School Lunth Program. Across the Line, federal and state governments share these costs on a 50-50 basis. Provided the plan were adopted in Canada, this action would result in enlarging the home market and reducing appreciably the surpluses, particularly in dairy products.

NOR ARE THESE THE ONLY PLANS being advocated by the rural population to solve the dilemma of distributing abundance. One major proposal goes under the name of Conservation Acreage Reserve Program. Under this scheme, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (a post corresponding to Minister of Agriculture in Canada) would estimate ahead of seeding time each year the acreage of farmland NOT needed for growing crops. The government department would be empowered to enter into agreement with any farmers wishing to put apart of their respective acres into the National Reserve. In return for cash rental payments, the farmers concerned would undertake to conserve the topsoil of their idled land by approved scientific methods.

ON THE EXPORT SCENE, an international food and raw material pool to stabilize world food supplies and prevent famine has been advocated by those interested in finding a solution on the global level.

Too many persons in public life today are afraid to experiment. Tradition-bound, they prefer to go on pinning their faith on the old tried methods of doing business and governing the nation. But the

inescapable fact is we are living in a rapidly-changing world. We must adapt ourselves or perish!

Time marches on. To stand still is to stagnate — and stagnation leads inevitably to collapse. Our political and business leaders MUST be made to realize the facts and take the necessary corrective measures. Because, refusal to face up to the imperative need for a completely new technique in dealing with agricultural abundance on this continent and in this country means there can be no solution to the Farm Marketing Crisis.

And if there is no solution to be found, not even large capital expenditures can postpone for long the day of reckoning — a reckoning that will usher in the dreaded general depression in a year or two hence.

### SECRETARY OF THE "BORED" CAN BE CHANGED!

Numerous requests have been made for information on steps to be taken in livening up business sessions at meetings of locals. The following is a reprint of a pamphlet prepared by Floyd Griesbach, secretary of National Farm Radio Forum, and could be applicable to our own organization. It is being published here with a view to aiding secretaries of F.U.A. locals in the better discharge of their duties.)

"Are you the secretary of an active group or are you secretary of the Bored? Secretaries often complain about members losing interest. Sometimes it is community traditions which lead to dull meetings. More often it is the habits of the secretary and/or the chairman.

(1) **Have a tool kit.** The secretary requires a tool kit the same as any other service man. A supply of pencils, paper, carbon paper, pins, gummed tape, envelopes, chalk, postage stamps, and a blackboard eraser along with a pair of scissors are necessary.

Other items which should be kept in the Secretary's kit are a copy of the constitution, minute book, a list of officials of the organization and their addresses, song sheets and a handy book of games.

(2) **Never start a meeting without a list** of things to be done or an agenda. This is the chairman's responsibility but the secretary should assist in its preparation before the meeting starts.

(3) **Keep the meeting moving.** Always have the correspondence ready for reading. Have ballots on hand in case a secret vote is necessary and so on. Nothing is more boring than waiting at a meeting while the secretary opens mail or cuts up paper or is busy looking through a confusion of paper for a report.

(4) **Speak clearly.** When reading a letter or passing on information the members are depending on you. Mumbled reports can be avoided by sitting up straight and holding the

report high enough to force the head up. It is also a great help to read reports **out loud** three or four times at home. The best radio announcers read aloud before going on the air with a message from their sponsor. As secretary you are speaking for someone else who wishes a job well done.

(5) **Makes notes.** Keep adequate notes for the minutes, if someone moves a long motion, have him write it down for you. It will save time. If your taking of notes continually delays the meeting, you are taking too many notes.

(6) **Make sure you understand.** You are not saving time if you let a meeting continue and do not understand what decisions they are making. It is your job to ask the chairman for clarification at any time during the meeting if you feel confused.

(7) **Report immediately.** There is no excuse for taking up the time of a meeting explaining why you were unable to send letters or reports as instructed at the last meeting. If you can't do it yourself, you must have someone else do it for you otherwise the last meeting was a waste of time.

(8) **News items.** Have someone else look after the news of your meeting for the press, radio and TV. The members like to watch for news of their meetings and it is important that the community understand what your organization is doing for it. As secretary you are too busy to get the news away in time. The difference between doing minutes and news items is as great as trying to be chairman and secretary at the same time.

(9) **Use the best equipment.** Poor pencils and cheap papers have led many otherwise good reports to the waste paper basket. Lack of a blackboard has often lead to much confusion when arriving at a decision at meetings. A sheet of black masonite will make 3 cheap blackboards which can be transported easily in the family car. A supply of good song books can often fill an unexpected gap in the program. The secretary should see that such equipment is at hand at all times.

(10) **Use evaluation sheets.** Too much of a good thing can often become boring. At a few meetings each year pass blank sheets of paper among the persons present at the meeting. Ask them to take a couple of minutes and write down what they have liked best about the recent programs, then draw a line across the sheet and write down what they liked least about the recent programs. Have a couple of members summarize these reports. This gives the executive valuable information as to how the programs are meeting the interest of the members as well as offering the members an excellent opportunity to let off steam whenever they are becoming bored.

## SUMMARY OF U.G.G. SUBMISSION TO GORDON ROYAL COMMISSION

J. E. Brownlee Q.C., President of United Grain Growers Limited, appearing before the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, advanced a suggestion for accelerating disposal of the present wheat surplus on the North American continent. It is for a massive program conducted jointly by Canada and the United States to promote feeding to livestock of great quantities of wheat of low grade, or of types not entirely desirable for milling. Such a program would involve efforts in various countries to publicize and to promote the use of wheat for feeding poultry and livestock, and to overcome a moral prejudice in some countries against allowing livestock to consume what could be used for human food. Although there is at the moment no world shortage of feed grains, neither is there any great surplus. To earmark some hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat for livestock will add comparatively little from a percentage standpoint to existing feed supplies.

Mr. Brownlee laid stress upon the concept of Canadian Agriculture as a whole being an export industry and not merely grain growing in the Western provinces. If the Western farmer cannot export his grain and turns to large scale feeding operations, he will create a serious problem for farmers in other provinces who have been enjoying a domestic market.

He was optimistic as to the long range outlook for grain exporting and also as to the outlook for food prices. That is because of increasing pressure from rapidly growing world populations upon food resources. He referred to alarm expressed only a few years ago as to impending food shortages and offered an explanation of why food supplies have temporarily out-run population growth. The answer is to be found, he said, in two changes which have relieved agriculture from former tasks. One is the disappearance of the horse; the other is the introduction of artificial fibres for human clothing. Without the latter the world supply of wool, linen, cotton and silk would fall far short of meeting present needs. Without them land, labour and capital, which during recent years have been available for food production, would have had other employment and the world's food supply would have been much smaller.

As to horses, he quoted figures to show a reduction in the United States alone since 1939 of 30 million acres devoted to the up-keep of horses. The effect has been greater in the more densely populated areas of Europe than in Canada. Agriculture, he said, thus relieved

from a former task of great magnitude is able to produce more abundantly food for human use. He suggested that these two changes since the end of the second world war have added more to world food resources than the exportable grain of Canada.

Mr. Brownlee dealt with what an American writer, Ronald L. Mighell, has described as an industrial revolution taking place in agriculture, of which farm mechanization is only one part, enabling a given area to produce much more than formerly. Quite evidently, he said, the world can obtain a lot more food than it had, but only at a cost. Increased productivity will be forthcoming only when the price incentive is sufficient. That has been demonstrated in the United States, where under the stimulus of guaranteed prices, production has proceeded at a speed greater than necessary, thus out-running immediate marketing possibilities. On the other hand this industrial revolution has progressed at a slower tempo in Canada than the United States because price incentives have so far been lacking to bring out its full potentialities.

Mr. Brownlee foresaw increased grain production in Canada in future years, not so much from new settlement on land now unoccupied, as from higher yields from land now cultivated. Reduction in the practice of summerfallowing and increased use of artificial fertilizers would contribute to that end.

Dealing with difficulties in the international wheat market caused by the present disposal programs of the United States and France he urged Canadian effort to bring about an international ban on the practice of subsidized dumping in the sense of selling abroad at prices lower than prevail on the domestic market. "The practice", he said, "is widely recognized as reprehensible, and various countries, including our own, have laws designed to check it. Competitive export subsidies by Canada should be considered only as a last resort, but it may be a deterrent to other countries to realize that this country might be driven to such resort if all other efforts to correct conditions should fail.

Dealing with the recently announced plan for guaranteed bank loans on farm stored grain, Mr. Brownlee said:

"Another method presents itself for getting money into farmers hands without encountering administrative difficulty. That is to pay more money on grain already delivered by farmers, by way of initial or interim payments on the crops, both of 1954 and of 1955. So far such payments have been regulated so as to provide

to the government a wide margin of security against possible losses. Present conditions seem to make it inevitable for the government to take some measure of risk. It will be simpler and more effective to take such risk in the way suggested than in any other."

Dealing with demands for increased storage facilities, Mr. Brownlee said that in recent years, United Grain Growers Limited had added 19 million bushels to the capacity of its elevators, of which 10 million bushels had been by way of new construction. While further construction by all companies is in progress the volume is small in relation to the quantity of grain farmers would like to deliver. "So far as concerns construction by the government involving a large capital sum it would seem desirable first to determine if available funds cannot be put to better and more direct use for the benefit of farmers."

#### UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LIMITED RE-CORDS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The 49th Annual Report of United Grain Growers Limited for the year ended July 31st, 1955, was presented to the delegates attending the annual meeting of the Company at Winnipeg on November 2nd, 1955, by Mr. J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., President and General Manager.

The report showed the Company made a satisfactory financial showing during the crop year 1954-55. Earnings for the year amounted to \$2,595,490 after charging \$675,000 for patronage dividends on grain delivered. Net earnings were \$720,631 as against the comparable figure of \$784,574 for last year. After deduction of \$240,413 for 5% dividend on Capital Stock, consolidated earned surplus at the close of the year amounted to \$2,840,027 against \$2,077,413 a year ago. Working capital was increased to \$6,939,429 from \$6,063,201. Shareholders' equity stands at \$9,815,305, somewhat more than twice the paid up capital stock of \$4,804,820.

The Company operates 685 elevators in the Prairie Provinces, a terminal elevator at Port Arthur and a terminal at Vancouver with a total storage capacity of over 53 million bushels.

The Directors' Report called attention to a developing threat to Canadian producers from the practice of subsidizing grain exports by the Government of the United States of America. The practice spreading as it is to other countries has now become a serious menace in international markets. The report ex-

pressed the hope that other countries would recognize the dangers of export subsidies and that the International Wheat Conference at Geneva would deal with this matter in an effective manner.

It was also hoped that every effort would be made during the current crop year to utilize terminal and elevator space in the best manner possible. It was pointed out that the quota policy as administered by the Canadian Wheat Board in 1954-55 had resulted in considerable quantities of low grade grains being moved to terminals and this space as well as space in elevators was now occupied by grain at present is not readily marketable.

The delegates approved of the stand taken by the Directors of the Company in respect to box car distribution. They agreed that ultimate control of car distribution should be left with the Canadian Wheat Board so that grain can be moved into saleable position.

The delegates heard addresses by Mr. G. A. McIvor, Chief Commissioner for the Canadian Wheat Board; Mr. D. G. McKenzie, Chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners; Mr. B. N. Arnason, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives, Province of Saskatchewan and Mr. R. D. Chase, Director of Co-operative Services, Province of Manitoba.

Following the meeting J. E. Brownlee Q.C., Calgary was re-elected President at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

R. C. Brown, Winnipeg, was re-elected First Vice-President and J. Harvey Lane, Fillmore, Saskatchewan, Second Vice-President.

The other members of the Executive Committee are S. S. Sears, Nanton, Alberta and J. I. Stevens, Morinville, Alberta.

In addition, the following are Directors of the Company:

Representing Alberta: L. F. Snyder, Wayne, and H. W. Allen, Huallen.

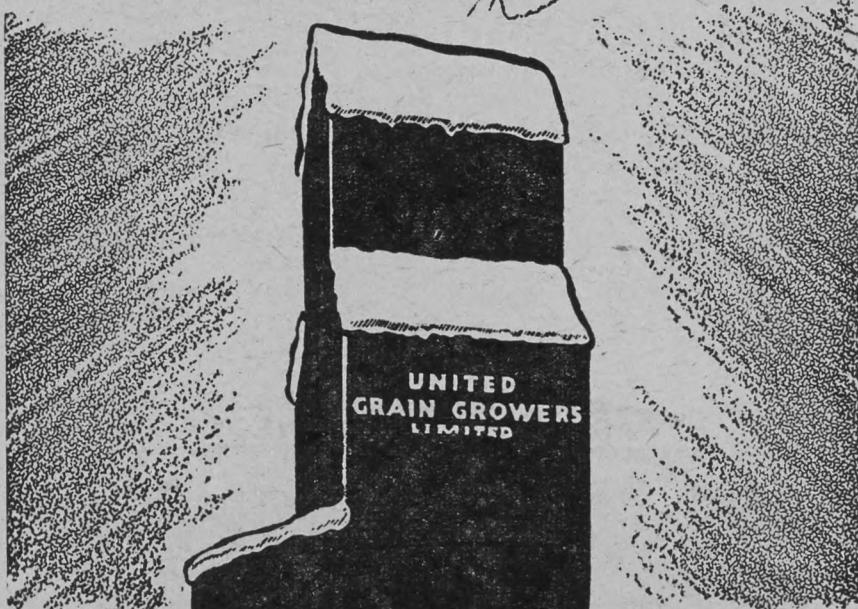
Representing Saskatchewan: J. D. McFarlane, Aylsham; A. M. Runciman, Abernethy, and D. L. Trapp, Marriott.

Representing Manitoba: R. M. Wilson, Gladstone and H. E. Staples, Benito.

#### F.U.A. NEWS

A meeting of the Shoal Lake FUA No. 565 was held on Friday, November 18th with 26 members and five visitors present. Sub-director Gaston Jouan gave a very interesting and informative talk on the organization and work of 4-H Clubs. Dave Case was chosen delegate to the annual convention. It was decided to hold a bingo after the next meeting on December 10th.

May  
the Joy  
and Peace  
of Christmas  
bless your -  
household  and  
bring happiness to   
those  within and   
to those who cross your  
threshold during the   
 Christmas  Season



**UNITED GRAIN GROWERS**  
LIMITED  
Canada's Original Farmer Co-operative 1906-1955

# Christmas Greetings

THE DELEGATES, DIRECTORS, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL WISH TO THANK THE FARM PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE WHO SUPPORTED POOL ELEVATORS SO GENEROUSLY IN THE PAST YEAR AND EXTEND TO ALL BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

In the 1954-55 crop season Alberta Pool Elevators handled 55.4 million bushels, fourth highest volume in the history of the organizations.

Net earnings during the year amounted to \$1,333,278 which delegates at the recent annual meeting decided to distribute as follows:

## REVIEW OF POOL OPERATIONS

Cash patronage dividend	\$ 421,000
Reserve purchase from members	492,000
Income tax	106,000
Added to working capital	314,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,333,000

Patronage dividends totalling \$1,100,000 in value will be paid on deliveries to Pool elevators in 1954-55, on the following basis:

Wheat and flax — 2.614 cents per bushel, with one cent in cash and the remainder in reserves.

Oats, barley and rye — 1.307 cents,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent in cash and balance in reserves.

The record above shows that it has again paid grain producers to patronize Pool elevators.

